

AGENDA
HARDY COUNTY EMERGENCY AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
MEETING DATE FEBRUARY 19, 2025
STARTING AT 6:30 P.M.
MEETING AT THE BAKER BUILDING
17940 STATE ROAD 55
BAKER, WV 26801

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025-26 HCEAA BUDGET

AGENDA:

- CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
- APPROVE MINUTES—JANUARY MEETING
- TREASURER'S REPORT

OLD BUSINESS:

- BUILDING, EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE
- WARDENSVILLE, HCEAA, WEST HARDY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, 9-1-1 CENTER UPDATES
- TRAINING
- DISCUSS THE APPROVED REMOUNT OF THE 2017 AMBULANCE (371)

NEW BUSINESS:

- APPROVE 2025-26 BUDGET AS PRESENTED
 - COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
 - UPDATE REPORT FROM COMPANY 21
 - APPROVE ROGER VACOVSKY AS OPERATIONS LIASON FOR THE HCEAA
 - APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES
 - COMMENTS—BOARD MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES
 - PUBLIC COMMENTS
-
- **NEXT MEETING DATE, MARCH 10, 2025 AT THE 911 CENTER, 157 FREEDOM WAY, MOOREFIELD, WV 26836**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE HARDY COUNTY EMERGENCY
AMBULANCE AUTHORITY (HCEAA)
17940 STATE ROUTE 55
BAKER, WV 26801
304-897-6050**

Due to an error by the Moorefield Examiner in publishing the advertisement twice, the public hearing for the HCEAA to receive written or oral public comment(s) pertaining to the operations of the emergency ambulance system within Hardy County is rescheduled. The annual Public Hearing is scheduled for February 19, 2025, 6:30 p.m. at the Baker Building at 17940 State Road 55, Baker, WV 26801.

This required public hearing shall be held in conjunction with the regular HCEAA Board Meeting to provide the Hardy County Ambulance Authority time to consider any improvements or changes in service and to account for said changes when submitting the annual budget request to the County Commission

Please notify the HCEAA at 304-897-6050 in advance for any necessary accommodations.

Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority

Public Hearing for FY2026 Budget

February 19, 2025

Present: President Paul Lewis, Vice President Dr. Tim Thorne, Treasurer Doug Coffman, Secretary Jean Flanagan, Fran Welton, County Commissioner Steve Schetrom
Executive Director Derek Alt

Guests: Terena Dolly, David Pratt, Billie Jo Biddle, Mike Phillips, Bryan Barb from West Hardy EMS; Becky Fishel and Lisa Twigg from Wardensville Volunteer Rescue Squad; Courtney Turner, William Leonard, Michael Raines, Ashley Teter, Jeremy Hottinger, Lindsay Cole from HCEAA; Stephen Smoot from Moorefield Examiner; Peggy Moomaw, Kathy Fishel, Alex Yeater, Doug Mongold, Donna Mongold, Joseph Yeater, and Steve Miller from the public.

The hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Paul Lewis. The Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer followed.

West Hardy Emergency Medical Service

Billie Jo Biddle presented the FY2026 budget proposal for West Hardy Emergency Medical Services as follows:

Estimated Revenue	\$838,032.00
Estimated Expenses	\$834,500.00

Billie Jo said the above budget does not include funding for any emergencies or capital expenditures. They would have to conduct fundraisers to cover those expenses.

Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority

Derek Alt presented the FY2026 budget proposal for Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority and Wardensville Volunteer Rescue Squad as follows:

Estimated Revenue	\$1,355,392.00
Estimated Expenses	\$1,352,820.00

Derek said the budget represents an 11 percent reduction in expenses. Salaries & Wages reduced by \$124,756. Eliminated paid staffing in Wardensville one day per week. Volunteer reliance will increase from 48 hours to 96 hours per week. ALS part time staff cut one day per week - administration will fill the position. Cut overtime by 50 percent. Hiring freeze and no step increases for current employees. As a result of reduction in salaries and wages, Business Taxes, Health Insurance, Workers Compensation, and Retirement will be reduced.

Office Supplies, Equipment Maintenance, Medical Supplies and Professional Services are reduced.

Revenue estimates are \$504,000 from Billing and \$840,000 (\$70,000/month) from County Commission.

Public Comments

-Do staff making less than \$4,000 annually get free health insurance?

No

-Has the amount from the County Commission changed?

Yes. HCEAA was receiving \$85,000 per month.

-If the County Commission sent back a different budget, what would that look like? Is there flexibility in the Salaries/Wages?

HCEAA would eliminate a position.

-People see the inequity and wonder why - \$834,000 vs \$1,352,800.

You are comparing apples and oranges. The expenses are not the same in a number of areas.

-New York has a tax for the fire department. Businesses pay a "donation" to EMS.

-What's the difference between the levy and the fee?

State Code allows two ways to collect funds. A levy is a portion of real and personal property. A fee is a set amount. The levy was defeated by voters in the last election.

-HCEAA has asked Wardensville to change from 48 volunteer hours to 96 volunteer hours. The number of volunteers in Wardensville hasn't changed.

-The West Virginia EMS Coalition has determined the average cost of a response is \$959. EMS agencies get \$447 back for each response. That means a \$512 loss for each response. These are state averages.

-Many EMS agencies across the state have closed. We are fortunate to have a fee.

-If I get a bill, I have to pay it. If the Federal Government (Medicare/Medicaid) gets a bill, they pay 50% or less.

-There is legislation forthcoming that will require an ambulance at all high school football games. That will be an added burden on the system. Will require ambulance coverage on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Schools already have ambulance coverage at events. We don't want to lose that.

-What grants are available for EMS?

Assistance to Firefighters Grants are the large ones. There are smaller grants from other organizations for radios, etc. Firehouse Subs has a grant program for equipment.

Jean moved and Tim seconded a motion to approve the budgets as submitted and forward to the Hardy County Commission. The motion was approved.

Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority

Board Meeting

February 19, 2025

Present: President Paul Lewis, Vice President Dr. Tim Thorne, Treasurer Doug Coffman, Secretary Jean Flanagan, Fran Welton, County Commissioner Steve Schetrom
Executive Director Derek Alt

Guests: Terena Dolly, David Pratt, Billie Jo Biddle, Mike Phillips, Bryan Barb from West Hardy EMS; Becky Fishel and Lisa Twigg from Wardensville Volunteer Rescue Squad; Courtney Turner, William Leonard, Michael Raines, Ashley Teter, Jeremy Hottinger, Lindsay Cole from HCEAA; Stephen Smoot from Moorefield Examiner; Peggy Moomaw, Kathy Fishel, Alex Yeater, Doug Mongold, Donna Mongold, Joseph Yeater, and Steve Miller from the public.

The meeting was called to order by Paul at 7 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer followed.

Minutes

Fran moved and Jean seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Jan. 8 meeting. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report

Derek presented the following report for January 2025:

Total Expenses	\$110,991.85
Total Revenue	\$113,632.79
Income from Hardy County Commission	\$ 75,000.00
Income from Services	\$ 38,632.79
Other Income	\$ 0.00
Current Checking Account Balance =	\$22,506.12
Current Savings Account Balance =	\$ 8,219.06

Old Business

Building/Grounds/Equipment

No report.

All equipment is in service.

Vehicles

All vehicles are in service. 372 had a battery replacement. 373 had tires replaced. Derek is considering relocating the Argo/Serv3 within the county for better utilization.

Calls for Service

Paul reported the following calls for service for the month of January:

West Hardy EMS	106
HCEAA	84
Wardensville	35

The 911 has two dispatch trainees. Paul is looking to hire another dispatcher.

Training

There is an ESCAPE Conference 2/26-3/2 at Pipestem.

Law firm PWW is offering a Documentation course in Hampshire Co. March 28, 29.

West Hardy is doing recertifications. They are looking to providing an EMT class in the near future.

Remount of 371 (Model 2017)

The unit was approved for remount in 2023 at a cost of \$195,955. The remount would take the ambulance box from a 2017 Ford F450 chassis with 150,853 miles and remount it to a 2025 F550. It would be delivered in July.

The cost was not considered in the FY2026 budget. If we push the remount ahead six months, it would cost an additional \$8,000-\$10,000. If we go further than six months, the wait time is another 2 -3 years. Derek recommends pushing out another 2 -3 years.

Fran moved and Tim seconded a motion to push the remount to FY2028. The motion was approved.

New Business

County Commission

No report

West Hardy EMS Report

Billie Jo Biddle reported the following for the month of January:

Revenue	\$39,611.30
Expenses	\$86,014.61
Net Loss	(\$46,403.31)

Billie Jo said this was the second lowest billing income in the company's history. The billing company said it was because they were waiting for private insurance companies to process payments.

The new building - the 4th bay - was received and set. Money was set aside for that earlier.

Dave Pratt reported of the 106 calls for service, 22 were signed refusals (20%). Wednesday is the agency's busiest day.

Approve Operations Liaison

Fran moved and Tim seconded a motion to approve Roger Vacovsky as the HCEAA Operations Liaison. He will work with both East and West Hardy on finances. This is not a paid position.

The motion was approved.

Pay Invoices

Derek provided a list of current invoices. Steve moved and Fran seconded a motion to pay current invoices. The motion was approved.

Tim moved and Steve seconded a motion to adjourn.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority will be held on Monday, March 10 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the 911 Center, 157 Freedom Way in Moorefield.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jean Flanagan, Secretary

DATE FEB. 19, 2025

SIGN-IN SHEET

10F2

Name	Representing	E-Mail
✓ Jeanne Flanagan	HCEAA	
✓ Peggy Moorman	Public	
✓ Paul Lewis	HCEAA	
✓ Courtney Turner	HCEAA	cturner@hceaa.com
✓ Kathy Hobel	Public	
✓ Becky Fisher	WHS	bfisher@hceaa.com
✓ Terene Dolly	WHEMS	tdolly@hardynet.com
✓ David Brown	WHEMS	
✓ Billie B. Balle	WHEMS	
✓ Mike Phillips	WHEMS	
✓ Fran W. W. W.	HCEAA	
✓ Stephen Smith	Monrovia Turner	
✓ Alireh Zargar		

DATE FEB. 19, 2025

SIGN-IN SHEET

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Name	Representing	E-Mail
✓ Doug Mongelt		
✓ Donna Mongelt		
✓ Joseph Venter		
✓ Tim Thorne	HCEAA	
✓ Doug Costanza	HCEAA	
✓ Tracy Snyder		
✓ Bryan Raby	WHEAMS	
✓ William Leonard	HCEAA	
✓ Steve Miller	Public	
✓ Derek AH	HCEAA	
✓ Lisa Tuss	WVKS	
✓ Michael Einos	HCEAA	
✓ Ashley Teter	HCEAA	
✓ Jeremy Hettlinger	HCEAA	
✓ Lindsay Cole		